

REMARKS

The claims in this case were restricted into three Groups. Applicants have provisionally elected Group I for prosecution on the merits, a group which Applicants believe encompasses composition claims 1-20 as well as dependent method claims 21-23 (although the grouping of claims is unclear from the Restriction Requirement). At the very least, Applicants request rejoinder of dependent claims 21-23 to the present application at this time pursuant to MPEP § 821.04.

The Restriction Requirement is traversed.

For restriction to be proper, a burden must be placed on the Office in examining all claims. Applicants respectfully submit that even assuming the compositions and methods in Groups I, II and III are materially different, the search for methods and compositions in these three Groups would occur in the same classes/subclasses. That is, the search would be conducted in classes/subclasses related to the claimed elastomeric and lipophilic compounds. Because the claimed methods involve the same active ingredients as the claimed compositions, the search for all three Groups would substantially overlap or even occur in the same subclasses. Thus, no burden would be placed on the Office in searching and/or examining all claims together. Accordingly, the Restriction Requirement is traversed.

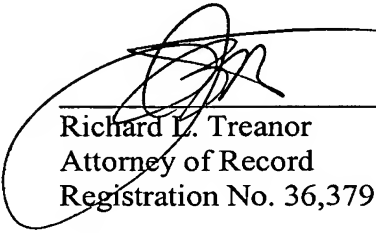
Application No. 10/685,505

Response to Restriction Requirement dated November 30, 2005

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition
for examination on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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